

MAYOR OF LONDON

Andrew Boff AM

Chair of the London Assembly

C/o Anna.Sutton@london.gov.uk

Our ref: MGLA150621-5878

Date: 27 July 2021

Dear Andrew,

London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting 10 June 2021 – Motions

Thank you for your letter of 11 June about the motions agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 10 June. Please see my reply to motions 4 and 7 below. I will reply to the remaining motions as soon as possible.

Motion 4 – Building Safety Bill

On 11 June, I wrote to the Prime Minister ahead of the fourth anniversary of the Grenfell Tower fire, raising the importance of protecting leaseholders from the unaffordable costs associated with fire safety defects they did not cause. The long-term funding solution I have long called for is needed for all types of safety defects – not just dangerous cladding – and buildings of all heights. My [letter](#) highlighted that the Building Safety Bill will provide an important opportunity to put things right for leaseholders. I am disappointed that the Government did not accept amendments to the Fire Safety Act that would have achieved this already and given anxious leaseholders peace of mind.

I am committed to working with ministers and the wider housing industry on solutions to restore public confidence in the building safety system. This includes strengthening the Building Safety Bill definition of higher risk buildings and amending the building safety charge to once and for all ensure that leaseholders are protected from costs.

The consequence of what the London Fire Brigade now knows about the built environment remains a resource challenge, and I have repeatedly made the case that the Government's protection grant must continue and that funding requirements should be consolidated for the longer term as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

I continue to have conversations with the London Fire Commissioner about the legislative impact of the Fire Safety Act 2021, which received Royal Assent in April but has not yet come into effect and so the Brigade is not enforcing against it at this stage. I shall also have early conversations about the impact of the Building Safety Bill once the Brigade has a clearer understanding of what the impact of the legislation may be.

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Motion 7 – London as an age friendly city

I want London to be an age-friendly city, whatever people's circumstances, and will continue to draw on older Londoners' priorities and the expertise of organisations representing older Londoners to help make that happen.

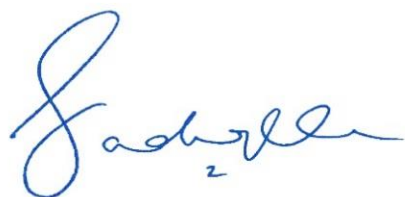
Deputy Mayor Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard is the older people's champion and is responsible for delivering my commitment to making London a more age-friendly city.

Councillor Ruth Dombey, Leader of the London Borough of Sutton, is the older people's champion on the London Recovery Board. Debbie and Ruth co-chair the social renewal work strand of the recovery programme. The London Recovery Board recently agreed to set up a sub-group to drive activity to address structural inequality.

The group will build on the work already underway in response to the pandemic, as a result of the Board's existing commitment to address inequality. The details of that group's scope and remit, which will include addressing inequality faced by older people, will be finalised in due course.

This work, along with the ongoing engagement with older Londoners and their organisations, will ensure older people are considered when developing programmes aimed at London's Recovery from COVID-19.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a small '2' written below the name.

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London